

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

NATURE AND CURE

OF

ABSCESSSES,

AND OF

WOUNDS IN GENERAL;

WITH

A PARTICULAR ACCOUNT

OF THE

ART OF HEALING,

AND THE GREAT UTILITY OF

MEDICAL SURGERY.

Chiefly Selected from Authors who have
written on this important Subject.

By PETER CLARE, SURGEON.

— *Quæ profunt omnibus artes.* 

L O N D O N:

Printed for the AUTHOR.

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P R E F A C E.

IN a former Edition of an ESSAY ON THE CURE OF ABSCESSSES, &c. I took notice that it was a frequent observation of Mr. Pott, that many Gentlemen who came to the Hospital to finish their education, were too apt to fix their attention on the operative part of Surgery only. Operations, he observed, would seldom occur to them in practice, in comparison with the common business of Abscesses, Wounds, and Ulcers, and as these must daily come under their care, he wished them to endeavour particularly to make themselves masters of the *Healing Art*.

From an early initiation in Surgery at the Hospital, I became a friend to lenient applications, instead of such as were of an irritating nature, which, I observed, gave great pain, and did much mischief. Mr. Pott's practice, contrasted with that of others, afforded an opportunity of comparing the different effects, and the pupils in general, whose young minds had not yet been tinctured with strong prejudices, were soon convinced which method ought to be pursued.

It has been proverbially said, that a Surgeon should have a steady hand and a hard heart; the first, is a qualification highly expedient, the latter, I fear, is often productive of much mischief; persons having been educated to Surgery, for reasons which ought for ever to have excluded them,—because, they

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were

were by nature cruel, and loved to torment. That there are, and have been, too many of such dispositions, in every age and in every country, cannot be denied; and this has probably been the reason that Surgery has made such slow advances towards perfection. I have seen a person seared with a hot iron, which threw him into a fever, and he died in consequence. Other instances of unjustifiable severity have occurred, even of late days, and some are entered on record; thus much is advanced for truth's sake, and in justification of what I have before asserted; to say more, however just, might seem invidious.

To the honour of many modern Surgeons, the art has been improved in all it's branches, but in none so much as what concerns the healing province. Surgery has, in all ages, been accounted a **DIVINE ART**; which it then only is, when conducted on right principles, and made to conduce to the ease and preservation of mankind.

—I hope the liberty I have taken in the following pages, of extracting from the works of others, will not give them offence, or be imputed to me as a fault; my principal Motive is to furnish Instruction and Improvement from their ingenious labours, not meaning in any respect to injure them. —By borrowing rays from **LUMINARIES**, we extend the influence without diminishing their **LUSTRE**.

Chancery-Lane.

S E C T. I.

Of Abscesses; their Nature and Cure.

AN Abscess is a collection of matter commonly seated in the cellular or adipose membrane, and sometimes terminates in dispersion. Its formation is attended with pain and fever, and generally with shiverings, all which are the symptoms of a constitution labouring under some morbid attack, and being critical, should not be repelled. Emollient poultices, and anodyne fomentations possess a relaxing power, take off tension, and give ease. Bleeding, under certain circumstances promotes maturation; but this must be followed with caution.—Abscesses, in old people, in dropical, and bad habits, tend to a mortification. When ripe, they sometimes break and do well; but as the orifice is apt to close too soon, it may be found necessary to keep it open by frequent and gentle pressure, and sometimes by a slight touch of lunar caustic. Surgeons, however, usually prefer larger openings by the knife or caustic paste.* With respect to the pain from a caustic, compared with that from the knife, it is but little, especially when applied to a cool, uninflamed skin, as when we make an issue; or, when the matter is quite formed, and the skin thin, soft, and easy to the touch. On an inflamed part, the caustic must undoubtedly be painful; † yet if we may
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judge

* Caustic: mitius, Pharm. Lond.

† Should it be necessary however, in such a situation to employ the caustic, it may be mixed with *opium*.—"With-
 " in this last twelve-month only, says Mr. Else, we
 " have mixed *opium* with our caustic, and we have re-
 " son to think it greatly lessens the pain, insomuch that
 " several patients have fallen asleep during its operation,
 " and all have owned that it was very easy to bear: nor
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judge from what our patients say, and appear to suffer, it is by no means so severe as the knife; I mean altogether considered. Neither is there any of the terror that accompanies the knife, a circumstance of great moment with timorous minds; fear being as great an evil as pain itself. A caustic of the dimensions of a six-pence is generally sufficient for the largest Abscess, and makes a free vent for the discharge of matter. I have known many Abscesses near the *rectum* opened thus in a depending part, and cured in a very short time with the greatest ease, and as effectually as if there had been an incision of several inches in length; and often Abscesses here will break, and having no communication with the intestine, will cure themselves without the assistance of an artificial aperture. When they become fistulous, the case is altered, and a division of the *sinus* is required. This is best performed with the probe-pointed knife, recommended by Mr. Pott in preference to the scissars, which being intolerably painful, ought therefore to be discarded. Wounds made by a caustic have no jagged lips, or callous inverted edges, nor *sinuses*; being quite open, they are dressed with the greatest ease, but not, when made with the knife, these being both painful to dress and difficult to cure. As the wound heals, where a caustic has been applied, the circumjacent skin draws in, and very little new skin is wanted. One caustic does the business, but rarely doth one incision suffice. I knew a surgeon who lost a patient some years ago, by insisting on making one incision more in his posteriors; the gentleman would

“ does the *opium* appear in the least to destroy the virtue of the caustic.” Mr. Else recommends the caustic in the cure of the *hydrocele* in preference to the knife, altho’ he was a dexterous operator. Caustics sometimes give so little pain, that having been applied as common plasters, and represented as such to the patient, he has not known that he has undergone this operation. This can never be alledged in favour of the knife, the pain from which is generally very acute.

would not submit, but took a certain quack medicine of the cordial invigorating kind, and the *sinus*, which the surgeon had desired to lay open with the knife, got well without it. The patient exulting on the occasion, and giving the merit of the cure to the medicine, the surgeon observed that he had done the business by the knife. "It may be so, (replied the patient) but it is plain you was mistaken then, and by the same rule, you might be so before." The knife which ought to be the last resort, is too often the first, with those who are fond of displaying it; though a good and necessary instrument in many cases, in the hands of an expert, judicious, and humane surgeon; yet when employed by others, it is too often the reverse, proving both mischievous and cruel. The safe and proper use of it can only be acquired by first seeing the operations of others, and afterwards by practice, but never from books alone, without anatomical skill, and manual experience.

Mr. Pott attributes many of the cures, said to be performed by quack medicines, to the effect of Nature alone. "Without intending any thing upon an honest or a rational principle, says he, Empirics, for want of knowing what to do properly, dress with some superficial ointment or plaister, and leave the conduct of sores to Nature, who, when the impediments of dressings (which often offend either in quantity or quality) are removed, will do much more than her too officious assistants believe." Is it not possible that such a medicine might casually restore a bad constitution? I should conceive it might; if so, it shews the utility and necessity of *Medical * Surgery*, which, I believe, if more attended to in practice, and better understood, might often effect cures in disorders where the manual exercise of the knife had failed, and brought discredit on the healing art. The propriety therefore of having the best medical aid on these occasions

* See Dr. Kirkland's Enquiry into the Present State of Medical Surgery, including the analogy between external and internal disorders, and the inseparability of these branches of the same profession.

cations will not be denied. I entirely agree with Mr. Pott, "That the boast of universal specifics, of remedies infallibly preventative of diseases, and of means whereby chirurgical operations may be rendered *totally unnecessary*, is the language of quackery, and not of science."

"The preservation of any part of the human frame, says Mr. P. has, at least, as much merit as the most dexterous manner of removing it; and there are many disorders strictly within the surgeon's province, the management of which will require more real skill and judgment, than are necessary for the mere performance of any operation whatever; not to add, that the power and capacity of a practitioner, are full as often shewn by preventing an operation, as in performing it."

"Surely, says Dr. Kirkland, the suffering the medical practice of surgery to degenerate, is disgraceful to the science, and highly injurious to society. For he who omits to inform himself in the methods of preventing operations, will perform more than are necessary; and many a limb, which might, I am persuaded, have been saved, has been taken off, because the operator had never attended properly to the *art of healing*. Every blockhead *can amputate a leg*; but how much more praise worthy is he, whose skill enables him to effect a cure, and preserve the limb? The discerning part of mankind will esteem him; he will ever be distinguished from the herd who are incapable of giving Nature proper assistance under difficulties, and his own reflections will fully reward him for the pains he may have taken in gaining that knowledge his profession requires."—These observations, founded in truth and humanity, are powerful arguments to induce pupils to attend minutely to every circumstance which may advance the healing art, an art of the greatest importance to mankind, and by a proper and early attention to which, the worst of misfortunes may often be prevented.

S E C T. II.

*From Mr. POTT's * Remarks, &c. shewing his reasons for opening Abscesses by Incision.*

“LET us, says he, first suppose the matter to be fairly formed; to have made its point, as it is called; and to be fit to be let out.”

“Where such point is, that is, where the skin is most thin, and the fluctuation most palpable, there the opening, most certainly, ought to be made.”

“Some of our predecessors, either from a fear, which almost necessarily accompanies the want of anatomical knowledge, or from an awkwardness attending the disuse of a cutting instrument, adopted the method of opening these (as well as most other abscesses) by caustic.†”

“With all due deference to authority, I will venture to say, that it is in general wrong; and particularly so in the present case.”

“It often gives unnecessary pain; and it produces a loss of substance, and a kind of cicatrix, which is not only unseemly, but frequently proves a lasting inconvenience.”

“Some of the patrons of potential fire, do, indeed, give a specious kind of reason for its use; viz, that it makes a more large and free opening for the discharge; and that by the time the eschar is separated, the hollow underneath is generally more than half filled up.”

“In a few (very few) particular cases, where the destruction of glandular parts may become necessary, after the eschar is thrown off, (as in the case of venereal bubos) there may be some force in this argument; and caustics may be found useful; but in the present case, and in most others, in which they are freely and

* Fistula in Ano.

† Comment.—The late Mr. Else, Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, was celebrated for his dexterity as an operator, and taught anatomy; yet he preferred the caustic to incision, in the cure of the hydrocele

frequently applied, they appear to me to be highly improper ; as they necessarily occasion a loss of parts, and a kind of eschar ; which is, in general, an indelible blemish, to say no worse. And with regard to the particular circumstance of the hollow being filled almost up, by the time the eschar is separated, if the surgeon will dress an abscess, opened by incision, in the same easy superficial manner he does one opened by a caustic, he will find the consequence to be the same. But, I know not why, a notion has long prevailed, that an abscess opened by a knife must be immediately crammed, and stuffed with dressings, while that, on which a caustic has been applied, must be let alone, until the eschar casts off. Let the one be treated as the other is, (and as they both ought to be) and the event will be found to be alike in each : excepting this material difference in favour of the knife, that it will not necessarily occasion any destruction of parts, loss of substance, nor any deformity which is at all comparable with what must follow the use of the caustic."

Mr. Pott strongly objects to the use of scissars, because, as he justly observes, "they pinch at the same time that they cut, and occasion a great deal of unnecessary pain ; and he concludes with saying, they are upon all occasions, where mere division is required, a very bad instrument ; they may assist an awkward or an unsteady hand, but are more fit for a farrier than a Surgeon."

On the Dressing of Sores.

" Mr. POTT asks, how suppuration is to be produced and maintained ? Not, says he, by thrusting in such applications, as by their quantity distend, and by their quality irritate and destroy ; but by dressing lightly, and easily, with such as appease, relax, and soften."

" Where

"Where there are large sores, or considerable cavities, a great deal will depend on the patient's habit, and the care that is taken of it; if that be good, or if it be properly corrected, the surgeon will have very little trouble in his choice of dressings; all that he will have to do, will be, to take care that they do not offend either in quantity or quality: but if the habit be bad, or injudiciously treated, he may use the whole farrago of externals, and only waste his own and patient's time."

"The first dressing after an operation, should be permitted to continue, until a beginning suppuration renders it loose enough to come away easily; and all the future ones should be as light, soft, and easy as possible: consisting only of such materials, as are likely to promote kindly and gradual suppuration."

By means of escharotics and painful dressings, cases, which at first, and in their own nature, were simple and easy of cure, are rendered complex and tedious."

Mr. Pott observes, "that cures, which are thought, by several practitioners, to have been brought about by a multiplicity of dressings crammed in tight, and endeavoured to be kept so, by all the caution of compress and bandage, are very frequently effected by the constant and generally successful endeavours of Nature, to thrust them forth again: or, at least, so to displace them, that she gradually gets opportunities of doing her own business, in spite of the impediments of art. The business of good surgery is to assist nature; but she will sometimes get the better even of the worst."

S E C T. III.

*Observations on the Nature; and the Dressing of Wounds.**

“**T**O conceive rightly of the nature and treatment of wounds under the variety of disorders they are subject to; it will be proper first, to learn what are the appearances in the progress of healing a large wound when it is made with a sharp instrument, and the constitution is pure. In this circumstance, the blood vessels, immediately upon their division, bleed freely, and continue bleeding till they are either stopped by art, or at length contracting and withdrawing themselves into the wound, their extremities are shut up by the coagulated blood. The hæmorrhage (bleeding) being stopped, the next occurrence in about twenty four hours, is a thin serous discharge, and a day or two after, an increase of it, though somewhat thickened, and offensive in its smell. In this state it continues two or three days without any great alteration, from which time, the matter grows thicker and less offensive; and when the bottom of the wound fills up, with little granulations of flesh, it diminishes in its quantity, and continues doing so, till the wound is entirely skinned over.”

“The first stage of healing, is called *Digestion*:† the

* See Mr. Sharp's Introduction to a Treatise on the Operations of Surgery.

† Comment——In the first Stage, that of *Digestion*, which is the formation of good *pus* on the surface of a sore, oily dressings are applied warm, but never should be hot, as they would be painful; and mild easy remedies only are proper. It may be doubted if there are any applications which actually promote digestion; but these may be considered in effect digestives, since they give no Interruption to Nature in this business; whilst painful dressings, falsely called digestives, defeat the very purpose they were

the second, or filling up with flesh, *Incarnation* :* and the last, or skinning over, *Cicatrizatio*n .†

“ In recent wounds made by a sharp instrument, dry lint is generally the best dressing throughout the cure. At first it stops the blood with less injury than any styptic powders, or waters ; and afterwards, by absorbing the matter, which, in the beginning of suppuration, is thin and acrimonious, it becomes in effect, a digestive : during incarnation, it is the softest medium that can be applied between the roller and tender granulations, and, at the same time, it is an easy compress upon the sprouting *fungus*.”

“ Over

were intended to promote. This is an act of the constitution, and when that is in a good state, digestion advances properly. When the circulation is languid, and the *Vis Vitæ* defective, nature must be assisted by cordial restoratives, which are of more service at this time, than any external applications whatsoever.

* OF INCARNATION.—The second Stage, that of *Incarnation*, is when the wound begins to fill up with granulations of flesh, and when these are of a florid complexion, it is a good symptom. When they are luxuriant, and rise above the edges of the wound, this appearance is called a *fungus*, and it has been customary to apply corrosive medicines to reduce it to a level with the surrounding skin. These gave great pain, and protracted the cure. Formerly surgeons were used to pare away fungous, and callous edges, with the knife ; and what was the consequence ? after this most excruciating operation, they returned with increase of pain and misery.—Mr. Fréke, in his *Essay on the Art of Healing*, recommends, with equal humanity and judgment, warm emollient poultices, which he observes, soften the callous edges of ulcers, and dispose them to heal, by removing the stricture of the skin, and promoting a free perspiration in the part affected. By this treatment, and a horizontal position of body, the most inveterate sores in the lower limbs have been happily cured.

† Comment.—*Cicatrizatio*n is the last stage, and completes the cure of wounds. Sores are covered over by the surrounding skin, and when that is deficient, by the forming of a new organization ; and sometimes from different small points (like islands) which in this case cicatrize fast.

" Over the dry lint may be applied a pledgit of some soft ointment spread upon tow, which must be renewed every day, and preserved in this situation by a gentle bandage. In all large wounds, after the accident or operation, the first dressing should not be applied in less than three days, when the matter being formed, the lint separates more easily from the part; in the removal of which, no force should be used, but only so much be taken away as is loose, and comes off without pain."

" The frequency of dressing will depend on the quantity of discharge; once in twenty-four hours is ordinarily sufficient, but sometimes twice, or, perhaps three times is necessary. We ought not to be scrupulously nice in cleaning a wound; it is worth remarking, that a sore should never be wiped by drawing a piece of tow or rag over it, but only by dabbing it with fine lint, which is a much easier method for the patient. Surgeons should not, on all occasions search into the cavities of wounds or sores, with the finger or probe,* as it often tears them open, and indisposes them for cure."

" It will frequently be in vain to pursue the best means of cure by *topical* applications, unless we are assisted by internal remedies; for, as many ulcers are the effects of a particular indisposition of body, it will be difficult to bring them into order, while the cause of them remains with any violence; though they are sometimes, in a great degree, the discharge of the indisposition itself, as in the plague, small-pox, &c.

S E C T.

* This is sometimes owing to ignorance, sometimes to cruelty of disposition; at other times to an affectation of knowledge and discernment, to gain credit with some, who think a man cannot be a good surgeon, who knows not how to give his patient pain, and does not probe the wound well to the bottom.

These sort of practitioners are continually searching for sinuses, and if they do not find any, they often make them with their probes. Wherever you can pass a probe, say they, you must follow it with the scissars. I have seen this absurd advice carried to a high degree of cruelty, and a

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S E C T. IV.

From Dr. KIRKLAND'S Enquiry into the present State of Medical Surgery.

DR. KIRKLAND gives an instance where poultices, of various kinds, and fomentations were applied to a small wound in the leg of an old man. At the end of three weeks or a month, it was thought adviseable, says the doctor, to pursue a different method. "The man appeared to be of a very irritable habit, of a hot temperament of body; and it was imagined that the turpentine dressings and fomenting had occasioned all the mischief. This conclusion was justified, for when a mild sedative digestive was applied, and a cooling ointment covered the inflamed parts, a sudden alteration for the better appeared, and a happy termination of the disease was the consequence."

"There is some danger of running from turpentine, and heating dressings into the opposite extreme, and a fashion, I see, is arising, of leaving nature to accomplish her own work, under the application of inactive remedies incapable of giving her assistance. No man is a greater advocate for simplicity in remedies, than I am, but *intention* should at the same time be pursued. Former practitioners certainly did right in employing different remedies for different Intentions, as the cases might require; for though nature cures diseases, she must be assisted by art, and though avoiding painful applications is a main object to which the surgeon should always attend, yet if we only have in view the choice of those remedies, which, by their simplicity and mild disposition, are incapable

recent wound in the hand, has been enlarged with scissars, the probe being first passed in the cellular membrane underneath the skin. This was done by a disciple, one, who too rigidly adhered to the precepts of his master.

Incapable of giving pain, we extend our refinements too far, as such practice is equally capable of doing mischief, with attempts to subdue diseases by storm. In one instance, the efforts of nature are overpowered and stifled; in the other, she is destitute of help; and I will venture to affirm that the most simple and healthful ulcer, will frequently degenerate into an exceeding bad state, under the long continued use of ointments made of wax and oil, poultices, or fomentations. For these things, by relaxing, occasion the Vessels in the affected part, to be distended and overcharged; the stagnating juices become acrid, vitiate and inflame, and I have seen the worst consequences under this treatment."

"It is not always sufficient then, that remedies are mild, and lie soft and easy upon the part; they should frequently have a power, as we shall occasionally shew, of preventing inflammation, of easing pain, of removing obstructions, of correcting acrimony, of taking off that kind of irritability which emollients increase. For these purposes, the neutral salts, preparations of lead, the different kinds of native balsams, either in their natural state or divested of their heating property; warm gums, opium, the essential oils properly corrected, antiseptic liniments, the application of peruvian bark, alum, cold water, spirit of wine, and a variety of other things have the preference to each other under different circumstances, and different combinations of these assistants, produce distinct and necessary Effects.*"

"The

* Recent, sweet oil, either in it's liquid form, or modified with wax or diachylum, is an approved and useful application to sores of many kinds. Oil serves as artificial pus, and comforts the tender wound. When the discharge is acrid, it occasions pain and mischief, in which case oil mixing with it, corrects it's pernicious quality, and gives ease. When the Matter is redundant and of a mild quality, dry lint is better than oil, as it absorbs the moisture, and makes the sore clean and comfortable for some time. It should be laid light and thin on the middle, not covering the edges of the wound, lest it should adhere, and not be easily removed.

"The appearance of the sore, and the symptoms attending it, will ever point out, to a careful observer, the exact state of the patient; will best direct what internal medicine is to be chosen, and whether a combination of medicines are necessary. People used to the cure of venereal complaints, will soon discover a venereal ulcer by its aspect; the method of cure to be pursued, immediately follows; and just so it is with all other ulcers. Bark, steel, opium, cicampane, elm bark, mercury, nitre, acids, lime-water, and a variety of other medicines have been found serviceable in the cure of ulcers; but in what kind each of these are proper, words cannot describe. The look of the ulcer only can determine this point; and unless the knowledge of distinguishing one ulcer from another, and the effects of the different medicines upon them, be acquired by careful attention, all proceedings are conjectural and uncertain."

"Physicians, as well as Surgeons, should attend to the dressing of ulcers, as the very manner of dressing, with the same remedy, often either forwards or prevents a cure. For instance, in many habits, the epulotic cerate, though properly prepared, spread thick, continues the running of sores; whereas, when it is spread thin upon lint, and suffered to dry before it is used, it frequently heals them. It is the same with Digestives; and different degrees of pressure, the Dr. observes, produce very different effects on sores."

* Comment.—The healing of a sore is the act of the constitution, and depends on internal impulse, not on the specific quality of unguents. These, when of a lenient kind, and fresh made, do good, by keeping the part moist, and defending it from the air; when rancid, they do mischief, though composed at first of ingredients perfectly mild and innocent.

S E C T. V.

The CASE of a COMPOUND FRACTURE, as it was related verbatim, by the late celebrated Dr. HUNTER, at his Lectures.

SPEAKING of the nature and cure of *simple* and *compound* fractures, Dr. Hunter observed, in his lectures, that in treating the *compound*, many Surgeons did mischief, and irritated the wound, by their officious and artificial manner of dressing it. Instead of that practice, he recommended treating the *compound*, as much as is possible, in the same way as the *simple* fracture: and in confirmation of that practice, used to relate the following well attested case, which was always heard with great attention, because the instruction was conveyed in the way of pleasantry.

“A maniacal patient, Mr. G ———, who was confined in the Infirmary at *Edinburgh*,” (betwixt thirty and forty years ago), “seeming to have recovered a calm and rational state of mind, was allowed to take an airing in the garden by himself. Here he took the resolution of making his escape; and got over the garden wall. In dropping himself from the wall, which was very high, he pulled a large capstone along with him, and suffered a very bad *compound* fracture in his leg. He was carried round, and lodged again in the Infirmary, in this unhappy condition; and the surgeon, who was presently brought to him, set the leg, dressed the wound, applied the eighteen-tailed bandage, &c. in the usual way. After all this, the patient appearing to be very calm, the surgeon gave some proper directions, went away, and the patient was left alone to get some rest, which was thought proper, and seemed to be his own desire. His madness now took a singularly whimsical turn: he knew very well that he had got a miserable broken leg; but his crazy imagination made

made him believe, that the surgeon had mistaken the leg, had bestowed all his cunning upon the sound leg which required no attention, and had left the shattered limb to shift for itself. Under this firm persuasion, convinced that his surgeon was too ignorant to perceive his blunder, too conceited to be set right, and too proud to suffer such humiliation, he thought it would be most prudent, in his present state of subjection, for the Cure of his broken leg, to make the best use he could of the judgement and dexterity which God had given him. He removed the whole *apparatus* from the broken leg, with great attention, that he might be able to apply it to the other leg, so exactly in the same manner, that the surgeon should not be able to discover the alteration; and, lest any suspicion should arise and lead to an enquiry and discovery, he thought he should be still more secure by secreting or hiding the other leg, that it might not be found, and appear in evidence against him. He therefore tore a large hole in the sheet and featherbed, and buried the wounded leg among the feathers.

" The next day, when the surgeon visited him, he said, that for a while he had been in pain, but that by a fortunate and accidental motion of the foot, the pain went off, as by a charm; that he had continued perfectly easy ever since; and therefore was resolved to keep it as steadily as possible in the same situation. The surgeon finding him easy, the pulse quiet, and no symptom whatever of fever, went to the foot of the bed, and lifting up the clothes, said, Let us just see how the foot and leg look. The patient seemed much alarmed with the proposal, and entreated him for mercy's sake to desist; because, he said, the least motion in the world would disturb it, and bring all his pains back again. The surgeon assured him that the bed-clothes touched nothing but the cradle, and that the lifting of them up could not in the least move either the leg or foot; and then, observing to the students, that the appearance of the foot was as favourable as he could wish, he expressed his satisfaction and went away. Every day's visit, after

after this, turned out equally satisfactory, both to the surgeon and patient, till the fifth or sixth day, when the surgeon grew very anxious to see the wound, lest any lurking mischief should be concealed, and was determined to remove the dressings. This the patient resisted, first with prayers, and then with imprecations and rage; but at last was obliged to submit. The surgeon, with a cautious and tender hand, removed the bandages, and, as he went on, expressed the pleasure which he felt on seeing the skin, both above and below the wound, in so natural a condition. At length he lifted up the dressings, which he found were quite loose, and, seeing a leg now perfectly sound, which, a few days before, he had seen in such a lamentable state, you can better conceive than I can tell how he looked. After a short pause, he passed his fingers along the *tibia*, and then said, I only know that a fracture and wound there certainly was, and now there is certainly neither. Presently he recovered himself enough to recollect that it was the other leg which he had set and dressed; and said, Where is the other leg; turning off the bed-clothes at the same time. Lunatics are quick in resources, not easily put out of countenance, and imagine that nobody can doubt what they assert. Mr. G———, sensible now that the leg would be discovered, drew it out from among the feathers, saying, with great expression of resentment and rage, that he would now expose the surgeon's ignorance to the whole world; that he always knew surgeons to be a set of ignorant fellows, though they wore large wigs; and now he would prove it, by a shocking instance, to the satisfaction of all present. This leg, said he, holding out the broken leg, with a great cake of blood and feathers crusted over and round the wound, this leg, thank God! is as sound as any man's:—there, pointing to the other, is the broken leg,—you see what a desperate condition it is in;—and that fellow being called did nothing for it:—he was called to set a broken leg; but he did not know a broken leg, and bound up this. After venting some more of his indignation.

tion and rage in sarcastic and coarse language, he begged that some of the young surgeons would bind up his broken leg, (meaning the sound one), for that it was in great pain, was much disturbed with this impertinent examination, and, if not taken care of, would make him a miserable object, at best a cripple for life. The surgeon seeing his patient's imagination so strongly perverted, and being convinced, by the agitation which that misapprehension had raised, that it would be, upon the whole, safer to indulge him in his wild conceit, with humanity as well as good sense, desired the young men to humour him by putting the *apparatus* on the sound leg. From that time he was calm, and, in all other things, reasonable. The cure went on with perfect success; — the scab of feathers dropped off; — the wound was found to be healed, and the callus compleated: A memorable lesson for surgeons, and a striking instance of the weakness of human reason, of the imperfection of our boasted art, and of the power of Nature !*

M I S.

* Observation with respect to a *fractured clavicle*. — Mr. Pott remarks, " that the prominent part of a broken *clavicle*, that part of it which is next to the *sternum*, is just where it should be, and that the inferior part, that which is connected with the *scapula*, is out of it's place, by being drawn down by the weight of the arm; and therefore, instead of loading, as is usual, the prominent part with quantities of compress, which never can do any service, the surgeon, by a proper elevation of the arm, will bring the lower end upward into contact with the other, and thereby, with very little trouble, accomplish what he never can do in any other manner, however operose. The same thing will happen from the same principles, in the leg and thigh, &c."

MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS.

“**T**HE Lips of recent, superficial wounds, being brought into close contact with each other, and kept so, will often heal at once, *by the first intention*. The blood is the best balsam we can apply, and gives no pain.” Wounds are said to heal *by the first intention*, when they unite without going through the stages of digestion, &c.

Sinuses are often cured by counter and depending openings, judiciously made, and assisted by compress and bandage.

There cannot, in my opinion, be a more absurd or cruel practice, than to take away a circular, oval, or indeed, any piece of the sound skin in an abscess, after making a puncture or an incision. Crucial incisions, and then removing the lips, is a horrible practice, and is happily grown into disrepute.

Abscesses in the breasts, are now often cured by small apertures, (instead of large incisions, which are a terror to the patient) and the application of emollient poultices: these should be made thick and adhere to the spoon; they will then be found of service when they are of a proper consistence. They seem to me of little or no use, when they are put betwixt cloths, and do not come into actual contact with the part affected.

Mr. Sharp has described the mode of applying caustics, in the following manner. “Let an orifice be cut in a piece of sticking-plaister, nearly as big as you intend to make the eschar, which being applied to the part, the caustic must be laid on the opening, and preserved in its situation by a few slips of plaister placed round its edges, and a large piece over the whole.” A bandage also is necessary; notwithstanding which, the caustic usually spreads one third beyond the limits prescribed by the plaister.

The caustic being continued three hours, will commonly do its office in that time. It causes, by its heat, a mortification of the integuments, and a separation of the mortified part, commonly happens in
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five or six days. Some Surgeons apply hot terebinthinate dressing, imagining, that these draw, and assist the separation of the eschar, on mechanical principles; which is not the case. This event is produced by the granulations arising in the wound, which gradually thrust out the part which is perished.

On the Necessity of AMPUTATION in certain Cases, and under certain Circumstances; by Mr. POTT.

“ I am satisfied, says Mr. Pott, that the propriety of Amputation, in certain cases, stands upon as fixed, and as rational principles, as any part of Surgery. A contrary doctrine has, within a few years, been boldly and industriously propagated, not without some very indecent, as well as untrue reflections, on the profession in general, and on those who have the care of hospitals in particular. I am convinced, that such doctrine has been employed to the prejudice of mankind, by covering ignorance and timidity, and also for serving the base purpose of malevolence.”

“ Mankind, says Mr. Pott, are rather too apt to form their opinion from events only; success with many, constitutes propriety, and the failure of it, is often, very unjustly set to the account of misconduct, or want of knowledge.”

“ The cases, in which, under *certain circumstances* Amputation *may* become necessary for the preservation of the patient's life, are several, but I will confine myself to four.

These are, first, a Compound Fracture.

Secondly, Some kind of scrophulous joints.

Thirdly, Some kind of Aneurisms.

Fourthly, A Caries of the whole substance of the bone or bones composing a Limb.

In all, and each of which, it may, and does, sometimes so happen, that the patient's life can be only preserved, by the loss of the Limb.”

“ I should be very sorry, says Mr. Pott, to have it supposed, that I was either so unknowing, or so brutal, as to think of Amputation, before every thing had been fairly and fully tried, and found ineffectual

effectual. When I hear people talk of specific balsams, particular fomentations, &c. I can only be sorry to find them so weak, or so wicked."

"If, says Mr. Pott, in another part of his works, I have sometimes found myself under a necessity of controverting the opinions of some Gentlemen of deserved eminence; if I have done this with decency and good manners, no apology is necessary. The honour of our art, and the moral characters of it's professors, suffer, whenever we pay so blind deference to any one, as prevents us from using our own judgment, and from declaring freely, the result of our enquiries or experiments."—The justice of this remark, will not be denied by any of those who take reason for their guide.

Nas mihi, sed rationi.

12 MR 58

OBSERVATIONS

UPON THE

ORIGIN and ART of SURGERY in GENERAL,

And the MEDICAL Part in particular.



Author's General System.

Of the Nature, Origin, Progress, Improvement, and Use of SURGERY; and of other circumstances, which are principally necessary for Medical Students to be acquainted with.

1st. **T**HE chief end of **PHYSIC** is to prevent or relieve the disorders of the human body. This the first Physicians endeavoured to effect by three means, either by Food, Medicines, or the application of the Hand; or by all together, if the case required it. Of these three branches of this salutary profession, they called the first *Diet*, or *dietetical*; the second *Pharmaceutical*; and the third *Cbirurgical*. Surgery is very necessary to mankind, since by this many grievous disorders are relieved, such as Wounds, Fractures, Dislocations, and several others, where Diet and Medicine would generally afford very little, and, sometimes, no help at all. But that the excellence and necessity of this Art may appear more clearly, it may be requisite to observe, that other Arts only conduce to the *conveniencies* of life; but the Art of Surgery is frequently necessary for the *preservation* of life and health. This necessity appears more particularly in dangerous wounds received in war, where many brave men must undoubtedly perish from the loss of blood, and other causes, unless restored and snatched from the jaws of death by the skill of their Surgeons; and, no doubt, the more

confidence they have in them, the more spirits they will have for the combat.

2d. Surgery, says Celsus, "is that branch of Physic which informs us how to cure or prevent disorders by the help of our hands or instruments, or by the application of external remedies." He, whose office it was to cure by administering medicines internally, and prescribing rules for the regulation of Diet, was called *Medicus*, (Physician); though this is a modern distinction, and unknown to the antients, amongst whom both offices were performed by the same person, as appears plainly from the writings of *Homer*, *Hippocrates*, *Celsus*, and many others.

Some have distinguished between *theoretical* and *practical* Surgery, looking upon it when ranked under the first denomination, as a science; viz. when a man has learned and understands the rules, and the reasons upon which those rules are grounded, teaching the best methods of treating disorders which call for the Surgeon's hand, and in what manner operations are to be performed, but never attempts any; this science we call *Medical Surgery*, and this branch all regular Physicians ought perfectly to understand, for the sake of their patients, whom they will then be able properly to advise. *Surgery*, when it falls under the second denomination, is termed *practical*. The practical Surgeon is well instructed in the art of managing his hands and instruments in the performance of operations. Much the greater part of modern practitioners have been content with the knowledge of the former part of Surgery, leaving the execution of the latter, which is much to be lamented, to unskilful Quacks and Mountebanks.

The strong connection there is betwixt Physic and Surgery, is, in my opinion, a persuasive argument that the origin, progress, and fate of both, were always the same; though I cannot help believing with Celsus, and others, that Surgery is more ancient than any other branch of Physic, nearly coeval with the world, and therefore the true parent of medicine. The nearer

mankind were to their first original, at so much greater distance were they from luxury and debauchery, and of consequence so much the further removed from internal diseases. The native strength of man, as yet unhurt by intemperance, stood in no need of internal aids. But on the other hand, even in the earliest times men were liable to external accidents, which required the assistance of the Surgeon's hand, such as wounds, bruises, and other injuries. They naturally learned to extract thorns and stop bleedings, and to make observations, which they would retain in their memories, and mark down for the benefit of themselves and posterity. So, this salutary profession took its rise from small, rude beginnings, and vulgar experiments, till, by degrees, it received improvements, and was brought to its present perfection, by the industry and sagacity of ingenious men.

Let us next inquire into what are the requisite qualifications of a Surgeon. According to Celsus, "He ought to be in his full vigour, to have a strong, steady hand, never given to tremble; to be as ready with his left hand as his right; to have a clear, quick sight, an intrepid mind, void of all tenderness, so as not to be at all moved by the outcries of his patient; to use no more haste than the case requires, nor to cut less than is necessary; but he should act in all respects as if he was entirely unaffected by his patient's complaint."—But at the same time I would have him behave with such caution, as to be guilty of no act of rashness or cruelty, and very carefully avoid giving unnecessary pain.

The two qualifications I have just recited, are by no means sufficient of themselves to render the Surgeon perfect; but there are others also, which Celsus has passed over, that are highly useful and necessary. No one will excel in Surgery, unless he is possessed of a good natural genius, to which he must join a well grounded knowledge in Anatomy and Medicine; if he is furnished with these talents, he will not only, with great sagacity, judge of the causes and cir-

circumstances of the disorders upon which he is consulted, but will, with great readiness, make use of the best methods, both with regard to the administration of medicines, and application of proper instruments for their relief; whilst, on the contrary, those who are not masters of these qualifications, will daily be guilty of capital errors.

Being possessed of these foundations for surgery, a proper attendance on the lectures of professors, and a due diligence in reading Chirurgical authors, should be added. Therefore persons desirous of a thorough knowledge in the profession, are not satisfied with visiting cases that may accidentally occur to them in their private practice, but diligently frequent all the hospitals, as, by this means, they see more in one year, than they could otherwise do in the whole course of their lives. But, in order to make the greater proficiency in these schools of Surgery, it will be worth while to distinguish the different kinds of disorders that fall under our inspection, after what method they are treated by persons of the greatest experience, and with what success. Being prepared with repeated observations of this kind, and assisted by their advice, we may at length try our own hand, at first upon dead bodies, and afterwards, when we have an opportunity, upon diseased persons; for this trite saying will always have its force, *the Artist is not made by reading, meditating, or disputing, but by practice.*

Surgeons should avoid all appearance of roughness in their behaviour, and dirtiness in dress; for good-breeding and cleanliness have their proper effects in this, and in all parts of life.—If the disorder is of such a nature as to require the knife, the Surgeon should declare it in due time to the patient, and have his consent before he undertakes it.* In very difficult cases he

* The patient's consent ought always to be obtained previous to every operation. There is no justifying a contrary proceeding, on any principle whatever. An English Jury, whose feelings were much disturbed by a procedure of

he not only provides for his patient's good, but his own, by calling in others of the faculty in consultation, before he proceeds to any operation, by which means he will save himself from all blame in case of misfortune.

He should have his dressings ready, and kept concealed from the patient, that he may not be terrified by them, and useless spectators ought not to be admitted. When the Surgeon is entering on the operation, he should encourage his patient to the utmost, and treat him in the tenderest manner; he should use expedition, but not hurry; should give no unnecessary pain, and leave no mischief unremedied. If he observes these rules, he will be sure to gain credit with the standers by.

The operation being over, the bleeding stopped, the wound dressed, and the part being placed in the most convenient and easy situation, a proper regimen must be enjoined, and a convenient airy apartment procured. All passions of the mind must be carefully avoided, being very injurious to health. He should be as little disturbed by company as possible.

It is the part of a prudent man to declare from his conscience, what he takes to be the true state of his patient's case, whether it be curable or not, and if attended with great danger, he should acquaint the relations. Be the case ever so desperate, he should cherish the patient with comfortable words, and give him hopes of his recovery, for some disorders are very much aggravated by fear, whereas, the expectation of health, and ease, is always so reviving, that, though it will not cure a disease, it will, at least, make it easier to be borne.

That Surgery is extremely necessary for the preservation of life, does not only appear from what we have

of this kind, some years ago, gave very considerable damages to the plaintiff, whose repeated entreaties could not prevail on the Surgeon, or his assistant, to desist from an operation which manifested equal barbarity and ignorance.

already laid down, but from the necessity Physicians are under, of calling for the assistance of this art, not only in external disorders, (to which some would impertinently confine Surgery,) but in internal complaints also, where medicine, and a proper diet, are in no wise equal to the cure, as in the Cataract, Stone in the Bladder, Suppression of Urine, and an infinite number of other cases.

There are very few persons so hardy as to reject Surgery as a useless art; this would be palpable folly indeed, since the most grievous disorders of the body, such as Fractures, &c. are evidently cured by its salutary aid. "The effects of Surgery, (says Celsus,) are more apparent than those of any other branch of Physic, since, in diseases, nature and accident may do much, and the same medicines have sometimes a good effect, and, at others, none at all, leaving a doubt whether health be the consequence of their influence; but, in disorders relieved by the hands, it is very clear whence the good effect proceeds." This fact appears in restraining Hæmorrhages, removing Tumours, and in a variety of instances, which absolutely require the hand of a skilful Surgeon.

We would recommend great care and industry to the young student in this noble art.—He should not only possess strength of body, but also constancy of mind, so as not to be moved by any disagreeable and offensive circumstances, to which he will become reconciled by time and custom; and he should perform every thing for the satisfaction of his own mind, and the ease and service of his patient.

Of Wounds in general.

A WOUND, the nature of which is well known to most people, is defined to be "a violent solution of the soft external parts of the body, made by some instrument."

The effects which are produced by Wounds, besides the division of the softer parts, are, generally, *profusion of blood*, though they are sometimes attended with much greater mischiefs; for it can scarcely happen, but that the divided parts must, in some measure, if not totally, lose their natural functions, according to their different uses, and the degrees of injury received. This principle is so extensive, that we are always guided by it, in forming our prognostic and opinion, whether the wound will prove mortal, or not. He, therefore, who is best skilled in Anatomy, will be enabled to form the most accurate judgment of the consequences which will attend wounds of any particular part.

In slight wounds, that is to say, where no considerable Vein, Artery, Nerve, or Tendon is concerned, we usually remark the following appearances; at first sight the wound appears to us as a red line drawn upon the part, but, upon being dilated, the blood instantly gushes out in greater, or smaller quantities, in proportion to the size and number of blood vessels that are injured. The bleeding soon stops of its own accord, and the blood, coagulating in the wound, forms a crust: the lips now begin to look red and swell, and are attended with some degree of pain and inflammation; if it is a large wound, a fever almost always ensues on the third or fourth day; sooner or later a whitish matter, of a glutinous quality, like oil, appears, which is called *Pus*, or *Matter*; on the appearance of which, the fever, pain, &c. abate, and often entirely disappear. These are the signs of a wound inclining to heal. New flesh rises up and fills the cavity, and a cicatrix is formed.

In deep wounds, we are to examine whether the fat and fleshy parts are the sole objects, or, whether some great blood vessels, or other internal parts, are not partakers of the injury. Here we receive our first aid from a knowledge of Anatomy, which teaches us the situation of each particular Artery, Nerve, Tendon, *Viscus*, and Intestine. The posture at the time of receiving the injury must be well considered, to enable

us to judge what parts have suffered, and how far the weapon has penetrated. The posture of the person inflicting the wound, and the shape of the weapon, will shew us its nature, and probably its depth.

In wounds of the Abdomen, when *Clyu* is voided, it is a plain indication that the stomach, small guts, or lacteals are wounded; when the excrements pass, the great guts are injured: in the same manner bilious blood shews the liver or gall bladder to be divided. If the urine escapes through the wound, it is evident the ureters or bladder have suffered; bloody urine denotes an injury of the kidneys, or bladder. Vomiting of blood declares the stomach to be the injured organ; violent pains, attended with convulsive twitches, shew that a nerve is wounded, or that some foreign substance is left behind. When the senses are disordered, after a blow received on the head, a concussion of the brain is much to be feared. Difficulty of breathing, pains in the breast, and hiccoughing, are symptoms of a wound in the *Diaphragm*.

After a due consideration of the nature of a wound, and the consequent symptoms, it will be no very difficult matter to determine, whether it be attended with great danger or not; whether the cure will be difficult or easy, perfect, or imperfect. Slight wounds are easier cured than deep ones; young men in health, sooner than old diseased persons, particularly than drop-sical, consumptive, scorbutic, and others. "It is of bad consequence, says Hippocrates, where a large wound is made, if no tumour succeeds." This Celsus has explained in a most elegant manner; "it is of bad consequence for a wound to be attended with a large tumour; but it is of the last consequence to be attended with no degree at all of tumour: the first being an indication of great inflammation, the last of mortification." Some degree of tumour therefore is best.

We shall divide wounds into three classes: some, in the first place, are of themselves mortal; others, secondly, are mortal, if not relieved by art; thirdly, become

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become mortal by accident, or imprudent treatment, though they were otherwise curable.

If attended with a rupture of some large blood vessel, they often produce instant death, as those of the heart, and other considerable *Viscera*. These may be justly deemed incurable, since they are not remediable by astringents, ligature, &c. No less mortal are those which obstruct or cut off entirely the passage of the animal spirits to the heart. Such are the wounds of the *Cerebellum*, *Medulla oblongata*, and some violent strokes of the brain itself. To this class are to be referred all those that entirely deprive the animal of the faculty of breathing; and those which interrupt the course of the chyle to the heart, are no less incurable than the former; such as wounds of the stomach, intestines, &c.

In this place we must by no means omit to speak of *Wounds which are inflicted upon membranous parts that are situated in the abdomen, and contain some secreted fluid*, as on the bladders, either for the bile or urine, &c. The fluids contained in these parts, when once they are let loose into the cavity of the abdomen, cannot be properly discharged, and therefore easily corrode the internal parts of the body, and as they very rarely admit of a remedy, these wounds may be ranked in the number of the incurable.

Wounds which prove fatal, if neglected and left to nature; by these we mean those which prove instant death, unless relieved by present assistance, but are curable by a good Surgeon called in time; such are those of the larger external blood vessels, which might be remedied by ligature, &c. A bad habit of body often prevents the healing of wounds which would admit of an easy cure in an healthy subject; so we frequently see the slightest puncture in the hand or foot of a dropical person, sha produce a gangrene, and prove mortal, though the Surgeon neglects no proper application to prevent it. I know very well that some Physicians reckon all injuries of this sort absolutely mortal; but I think they are much better justified who pronounce a milder sentence, and deem them

them of the doubtful kind.—We have laid down these principles to guide the Faculty in giving their opinions in Courts of Justice, concerning the necessary consequences and fate of wounds.

Of their Cure.

SINCE a Wound is a solution of the continuity of the parts of the body, the re-union of those parts seems to be the principal intention; but they are of very different kinds, some slight and superficial, others of great consequence; and in proportion to this difference, so will the manner of prosecuting this intention differ. The cure of slight wounds is generally performed with great ease, by applying a small portion of lint to the part, and securing the dressings with a plaister; these should be renewed once in a day or two, and the lips will presently agglutinate, and unite; therefore a Surgeon is rarely applied to on these occasions.

Wounds which are deep, and attended with some danger, are, in the first place, to be cleared from all coagulated blood, dirt, &c. or other foreign bodies, as bullet, glass, &c. these must be carefully removed by the fingers, or, if absolutely required, by proper instruments. The effusion of blood is to be stopt at the first dressing, and the divided parts to be brought as near as possible together, and kept so, that the scar which is left, may appear even.

The removal of offensive extraneous bodies, must be delayed, if the patient is faint from the loss of blood, and he must be supported with proper cordials; or, if there is any danger of wounding a large blood vessel or nerve, we should wait till the patient is come to himself, and the wound is enlarged by the suppuration of the parts. Where it is too narrow to admit of the extraction of foreign bodies without lacerating the parts, it must be immediately dilated with the knife. The first dressings that are applied, especially where

where there has been a flux of blood, ought not to be removed forcibly, but to be left till they fall off of themselves, which they will do, when the suppuration is formed ; by which much pain and fresh bleeding may be avoided.

Of Sutures.

THE DRY SUTURE, (which is formed of adhesive plaister) is to be used in recent and slight wounds, especially in the face; and, indeed, wherever they are of force enough to keep the lips together; as they give no pain, and occasion no scar. Where lips cannot be retained in their situation by the dry suture, or where pieces hang from the wounded part, as in the forehead, cheeks, nose, or ears, we must have recourse to the needle, which is called the *True Suture*. When a white thick matter appears, they should be dressed every, or every other day, and the superfluous discharge be wiped away with a very light hand, it being better to leave some behind than treat the part roughly; for wiping hinders the growth of new flesh, but a little matter being left, performs the office of oil or balsam, keeping the parts moist. These rules being well observed, new flesh will spring up, and the wound unite.

An even Cicatrix may be produced by dry lint, and proper bandage, to restrain the new flesh, and when, that does not suffice, by the use of drying powders or balsams, and, when these fail, by mild caustics of various kinds*.

The patient should observe a strict regimen, for nothing conduces so much to a good habit of body, which may be procured by regularity in diet. The air should be temperate; this is of great consequence

* Lunar Caustic is certainly the best, as it creates no slough, and gives the wound a florid aspect.

in all wounds, particularly in those of the head; and the apartments should be still and retired.

The body should, by all means, be kept open, especially in injuries of the head, when the patient is apt to be hot and costive; but the purgatives should be of the mildest kind, such as stewed prunes, roasted apples, &c. and all hard meats are to be avoided; also all passions of the mind.

Of Profusion of Blood.

THERE are some cases in which the bleeding is not to be restrained, as in a young, and full habit, or, when the wound was received in a drunken fit, or fit of passion.

By letting the blood run as long as can be done without inconvenience to the patient, the inflammation, pain, and fever, are much abated, or prevented. If none of the larger vessels are wounded, dry lint is the best application, with proper bandage, and often succeeds better than violent remedies. Where the lint fails, astringent applications of cold water, or vinegar compresses may be used. When the profusion of blood is such as to threaten life, *the Tourniquet* must be applied, for the safety of the patient, and the vessel taken up, and secured by a needle and ligature.

Of Wounds in the Head in general.

NO WOUNDS are attended with more danger than these; for the most slight injury of the brain will frequently bring on the worst symptoms, and even death itself; and wounds which do not penetrate into the *Cranium* [skull] and proceed only from a slight fall or stroke, even with a blunt instrument, sometimes occasions a rupture of the internal blood vessels, which is attended with the most mischievous consequences.

VIOLENT Contusions of the Head are discoverable by the Tumour, and softness of the parts, by the separation of the integuments from the bone, and by the collection of stagnating blood, which appears to be confined under the skin. In these cases we should endeavour to divide and disperse the collected fluids, by attenuating medicines externally applied, or, to discharge them, by an opening with the knife*; or, lastly, to bring them to suppuration, by the use of cataplasms, &c. The most certain signs of a fractured skull, are, the violent symptoms which immediately succeed the injury, such as severe pains, vomitings, vertigo, and noise in the ears; if blood at the same time is discharged from the nose, or ears, the senses and reason entirely lost, and the patient continually sleeping, the matter is out of all doubt. In a few days after the wound is received, we find a discharge of thin, fetid matter; about the seventh day, the integuments separate from the bone: acute spasms, drowiness, loss of motion, *rigor* of the limbs, loss of speech, apoplexy, arise, and, at length, death ensues. All these mischiefs may proceed from a *very small imperceptible Fissure* of the skull; examples of which are

* Extravasated blood is commonly re-absorbed into the circulation sooner or later; therefore such tumours seldom require to be opened.

very frequent amongst the writers in Surgery. This ought to teach us to be very cautious in delivering our opinions concerning the event of wounds of the head; for we can never promise a cure, tho' the wound at first should appear to be very slight.

In Contusions, Fissures, Depressions, and Fractures, one, or more, of the blood vessels that are distributed upon the *Dura Mater*, is frequently divided; the blood discharged by this accident, greatly oppresses the brain, and disturbs its offices; this frequently brings on pain and other mischiefs, and, at length, death, unless the patient be timely relieved. These symptoms will frequently arise after a violent blow on the scull, though the bone should have escaped unhurt*. In these injuries of the head, the blood is shed either between the scull and *dura mater*, or between the *dura* and *pia mater*, or between the *pia mater*, and the brain; or, lastly, into the *sinuses* of the brain. Each of these cases is attended with great danger, and the deeper the extravasation, the greater will that danger be.

We may suspect that blood is extravasated in the cavity of the scull, from the violence of the following symptoms: if the patient lies still, without sense or motion; if blood flows from the mouth, ears, or nose; if the eyes are much inflamed, and vomiting succeeds, and if upon the remission of these symptoms, the patient complains of a heaviness of the head, sleepiness, vertigo, blindness, spasms, and disorders of this kind. When the extravasation is very considerable, the patient dies upon the spot; but when it is not very large, or at least does not affect the *Cerebellum*, life still re-

* When the bone yields, and is fractured, the force of the blow is transmitted to the Brain, in a less degree, and the concussion will consequently be less; whereas, when the bone does not give way to the stroke, and remains entire, the shock is communicated to the *dura mater*, and the brain, occasioning a greater or lesser concussion, in proportion to the force impressed.

Le Dran's Observations.

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mains, but the symptoms of oppression above related, come on, sometimes very slowly, and great numbers who have appeared at first to have been but slightly wounded, have died in this manner, after some time, and contrary to all expectation. Therefore I cannot help again admonishing the Surgeon, that after violent blows on the head, though no bad symptoms did immediately occur; yet he should be very cautious in delivering his *prognostic*, and not be too hasty in declaring the patient out of danger. But when violent symptoms immediately ensue, we may always be sure that there is an extravasation of blood, tho' no great injury appears externally. The patient's hand will often be carried to the part injured, and point out the seat of the mischief, which being discovered, the first intention is, to discharge the extravasated blood, to clean the wound, and remove all splinters and extraneous bodies. Many writers advise the instant use of *the Trepan*, to make way for the collected fluid; but since this is a difficult and dangerous operation, and many have recovered without it, I see no reason for attempting it, unless compelled by absolute necessity*. Therefore I think it best, to try first, the force of attenuating, discutient medicines. With this intention we should first open a vein and draw away as much blood as the strength of the patient will admit, which will take off the *Impetus* of the vessels, and prevent further extravasation: also brisk purges to lessen the quantity of fluids, and stimulating clysters should be given. We must foment the head, apply volatiles to the nostrils, and give plenty of small diluting drinks. If this method does not immediately produce the desired effect, it must be continued for some time, and the

* Heister does not approve much of the operation of *trepanning*, because many, he says, have recovered without it: I have frequently attended this severe operation, and disapprove of it, because I have very rarely seen patients recover with it. These, and some other fractures, however, succeed much better in the country, than in the crowded hospitals, or other parts of this metropolis.

prescriptions be frequently repeated; and more particularly when the symptoms seem, by degrees, to abate. The repetition in this case may appear strange to some, but it must be to those who are ignorant of the good effect it produces, by lessening the quantity of fluids, and by restoring the course of the stagnating blood. If a little relief is found from the first bleeding, it will be proper to repeat the operation a second, and a third time (especially if the patient is young and athletic), until the disorder is entirely removed. Should the symptoms, notwithstanding, increase, we must perforate the *Cranium* with the trepan, to make a vent for the *grumous* blood. When you cannot discover the part most injured, you must perforate the skull in several places, till you hit upon the right.

SLIGHT Contusions are attended with little or no inconvenience, or danger, besides discolouring the skin, and even that deformity is of very short date, for the collected blood is soon absorbed again into the circulation, and the spots vanish; but in larger contusions, where there is a greater extravasation in the muscular parts, an abscess, gangrene, or mortification will easily follow. Contusions of the internal parts are extremely dangerous, according to their degree, and the consequence of the parts in performing the necessary offices of life. Patients often languish and die from the lingering effects of internal contusions.—Slight bruises on the forehead, and other parts, are cured by the application of vinegar, and such like discutient remedies.

Where the contusion is of any consequence, we should never neglect the giving internal medicine, and here our intention is to promote a discharge, by perspiration and urine, by ordering dividing and attenuating decoctions and infusions, to be drank plentifully, to one of which draughts may be added, with great advantage, a drachm of Venice soap. In full habits we should never forget to open a vein, and to repeat the operation often. The patient must abstain from flesh and strong liquors, and live wholly on broths
and

and thin spoon meats.—In these cases, the greatest advantages arise from abstinence, and proper evacuations, which promote and make room for the resorption of the extravasated fluid.

Of Fractures in general.

IN order to discover when there is a fracture, it will be necessary to enquire if the patient has entirely lost the power of moving any limb, or puts it into action with the greatest difficulty, after having received a violent blow upon that part; or if he feels very great pain on handling it; these circumstances afford great room to suspect a fracture; but in order to make it more certain, we are advised to take hold of the injured limb with both hands, and attend diligently, to hear the broken ends of the bones rub against each other, and to observe also, if there be any dent or sinking in any part of the limb. This should be managed with the greatest care and tenderness.

Of their Cure.

THE Surgeon's principal aim in fractures, is to unite the broken bone, for which purpose three things are necessary. 1st. That the bone be restored to its natural situation, by extending and replacing it. 2^{dly}. After the bone has recovered its natural situation, it must be kept there by giving it rest, and applying proper bandages. Lastly, we must use means to prevent or remedy the disorders, that usually attend this accident. The knowledge of anatomy is necessary to perform these intentions. 1st. The Surgeon must be acquainted with the situation and structure of the bones, to know whether the injured limb is supported by one or more; whether they are large or small,

even or uneven ; and whether one, or more, are broken at the same time. 2dly, What muscles there are in the neighbourhood, their situation, and office. Lastly, Whether any considerable nerves or blood vessels are near the fractured part ; all these circumstances ought to be known and considered.

There have been great improvements made in the treatment and cure of fractures in general, since Heister published his work ; therefore it will be proper to leave this and recur to another author, whose book abounds with the most judicious observations on this subject. " Many parts of Surgery, says Mr. Pott, are still capable of great improvement, and this part perhaps, as much as, if not more than any ; it being one of those in which a general observance of, and rigid adherence to old prescribed rules, have prevented the majority of practitioners from venturing to think for themselves, and have induced them to go on, in a beaten track, from which they might not only safely, but advantageously deviate. The practice is capable of great improvements ; improvements, which would show rationality and sense in the Surgeon, and produce ease and convenience to the patient. Our ancestors deserve our best thanks for the assistance they have given us, and where we find them right, we are obliged to embrace their opinions as truths ; but implicit faith is not required from man to man, and a reverence for our predecessors must not prevent us from using our own judgments. If what I have to urge is not capable of being verified and confirmed by experience, it must sink into nothing ; but if, upon trial, it shall be found by the majority (as it has been by me and some others) to be not only true and practicable, but highly conducive to the ease and benefit of the afflicted, it ought to have as much weight, though delivered by a living writer, as if it had been from the most remote antiquity."—These are liberal ideas, and, being realized, evince a liberal mind.

" What, says Mr. Pott, is the posture which almost every one with a broken thigh, puts himself into, in order

order to obtain ease, till he can procure assistance? Do such persons stretch out their limbs, and place their leg and thigh straight, resting on the calf and heel? I believe, seldom or never. On the contrary, do not they always bend their knee, and lay the broken thigh on its outside? and is not the reason obvious why this must be the most easy posture?"

"Extension is wrong; a strait position of the thigh or leg, is a degree of extension. Change of posture, then, must be the remedy, or, rather, the placing a limb in such a manner as to relax all its muscles."

"By the term of *Rising-end of a broken bone*, any one, says Mr. Pott, unacquainted with these things, would be inclined to think, that the prominent part of a broken bone rose, or was elevated from its natural place, and became, by such rising, superior to the other part or extremity of the fracture. This would certainly be the idea of an ignorant person, and as such would be of little consequence; but by the practice of many who call themselves Surgeons, it is certainly their idea also, which renders it a matter of great consequence. Upon this false notion, annexed to the expression, *Rising-end*, stands all the absurd practice of compress, bolster, and strict bandage in the cases of simple fracture. The truth is, there is really no *rising end* to a broken bone; I mean when applied, as the term usually is, to the leg, thigh, and clavicle*. There is, indeed, a superior or prominent end or part, and an inferior or depressed one, but the former of these is in its proper place, from which it cannot by

* Within these few weeks, I was sent for to a patient, who had been so unfortunate as to break his collar-bone, by a fall from his horse on the road, near town. A Surgeon in the neighbourhood was employed, who applied compress and bandage, and the patient came to London the next day. I found him in great pain, the extremities of the bones riding over each other; the parts were again displaced, perhaps, by the journey. By elevating the shoulder he became in an instant quite easy, and being kept in that position, he was perfectly well in a month.

art be moved ; and the latter, which is not in its place, is very capable, by art, of being put into it." In the case of a broken collar bone, the remedy consists, not in depressing the part next the *Sternum* (breast bone) but in elevating the shoulder, and keeping it in that situation by a proper sling and support.

On the true and proper Use of Splints.

"THEIR true and proper use is to preserve steadiness in the whole limb, without compressing the fracture. To be of any real service, they should, in the case of a broken leg, reach above the knee, and below the ankle ; should be only two in number, and so guarded with tow, or linen, that they should press only on the joints and not on the fracture. A short splint, which extends only a little above and below the fracture, and does not take in the two joints, is an absurdity ; and what is still worse, it is a mischievous absurdity.

"In the case of a fractured shoulder, the only position in which it can be placed with any tolerable convenience to the patient, is, with the elbow bent, which relaxes, and removes all the resistance of the surrounding muscles. A strait position puts the muscles upon endeavouring to act, and *vice versa*."

"In the thigh, the case is still more obvious, as the muscles are more numerous and stronger."

* Mr. William Sharp presented a paper to the Royal Society in the year 1766, recommending fractured limbs to be put in a state of flexion, and at the same time advising the use of long splints. Nevertheless, in justice to Mr. Pott, says Dr. Kirkland, it must be observed, that he is the first writer who has *scientifically* proved, that putting the muscles in a state of *relaxation*, and *non-resistance*, is the most proper method of reducing and curing fractures.

Kirkland's Observations.

Mr. Pott published his general remarks on fractures, many years after he had experienced the misfortune of breaking his own leg, and it is reasonable to suppose, that such an event would occasion him to reflect, more than ever, on that subject, and a concern for others, under the same predicament, would naturally induce him to communicate his observations to the world; thus converting his own private misfortune into a great, inestimable, and public benefit. All people, we find, are liable to these accidents. FROM THE PRINCE, to the common sailor, foldier or labourer, and any mismanagement might prove of the worst of consequences, particularly to those whose whole dependence and support rests on the use of all their limbs. The reduction of broken bones is rendered so easy and intelligible, that any one may acquire the knowledge and assist his fellow creature in distress, by placing him in a state of immediate ease and security, till a surgeon arrives, to whom he may afterwards become an useful assistant in compleating the business; this must afford an inexpressible pleasure to a sympathetic mind. From a knowledge of Mr. Pott's disposition, acquired during a residence with him of several years, I am persuaded it will give him pleasure to see his valuable information extended, in every possible manner, for the good of mankind*.

* The reduction of a dislocated shoulder is more readily effected by slight and dexterity, than by violence; viz. by relaxing the muscles. The rough instrument, called an *Ambe*, is hardly known in this age. I remember a patient's being brought to St. Bartholomew's hospital with a dislocated shoulder, which I reduced easily with my hands, assisted by the standers by. The poor man had been sent from Hampstead, in great pain and misery. A Surgeon had seen the case, but declined undertaking it, saying, "he had not his instruments about him."

We may be well assured that the shoulder is dislocated, when the elbow cannot be made to approach the side; and when there is a considerable hollow or dent on the top of the shoulder also.

A Letter from Dr. KROHN, Member of the Royal College of Physicians in London. and Physician Man-Midwife to the Middlesex-Hospital, To Mr. Clare, Surgeon.

Dear Sir,

ON reading your publication on *Mercury*, to be conveyed into the constitution by absorption, with more advantage and equal success, &c. I was so pleased with the idea, that I determined to try it the first opportunity which should offer itself, strictly following your mode, prescribed.—In the beginning of October last, a particular friend of mine from the country came to me, then about a month ill of a virulent *chancre*, to such a degree, that the ulcers of various sizes, deeply seated, had almost destroyed the *frænum*. Desirous of my advice, I prescribed your mercurial liniment, the benefit of which he very soon experienced, by recovering within the space of a fortnight, perceiving not the smallest inconvenience from its use. He, on the contrary, found his bowels perfectly free from any attack on them, the usual attendant on former methods of treatment, which he had frequently experienced previous to this trial. No kind of wash or application whatsoever was used for the ulcers, which notwithstanding grew gradually better and healed. I saw him but very lately, when he informed me, that he had not had the smallest return of the complaint in any shape.—It afforded me the more pleasure, as he, from peculiar circumstances, was obliged to visit much, and to go into companies, where a reservedness in his manner of living amongst his friends must inevitably have raised such suspicions as would have proved prejudicial.—Two other cases of the like complaint have since occurred to me, in both sexes; where I was certain of ITS FULL AND GOOD EFFECT.—And what is more *surprising*, is, that *this mode* seems to agree better with people who are debauchees, having had a most essential proof of this assertion in the one, a man who drank all kind of strong liquors, was scarcely ever in bed for a week together, and that at the break of day, and much exposed to cold, damp and moist

air.

air.—If these little observations, made by me in consequence of your disinterested publication, can afford you any satisfaction, I will in future do myself the pleasure to communicate what shall fall under my inspection, with the utmost candour; till when, I remain, with much esteem, Dear Sir,

Southampton Street,
Covent-Garden.

Your's, &c.
HENRY KROHN.

A Letter from Dr. BUCHAN, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians at Edinburgh, and Author of "Domestic Medicine," To Mr. Clare, Surgeon, Chancery Lane.

Dear Sir,

I Thank you for the present of your Treatise on the Venereal Disease, and likewise for the honour you have done me in addressing to me your letter, containing "Observations on the Nature and Treatment of the Variolous Abscess, with Remarks on the Modern Practice of Inoculation." You are justly entitled to the esteem and thanks of the public, for the pains you have taken to alleviate the sufferings of mankind in two of the most dreadful disorders incident to human nature. The small pox sweeps off one fifth of the human species in the state of infancy; while the *lues venerea* commits its silent ravages on the flower and vigour of youth. Yet, dreadful as these calamities are, they admit of more relief from the medical art, than any other disorders with which we are acquainted. For the venereal disease we are in possession of a specific remedy, which, if properly applied, will seldom fail to perform a cure; and the small-pox, every one knows, may, by inoculation, be rendered so mild as hardly to deserve the name of a disease. To extend the practice of inoculation, and to point out the most safe and efficacious method of exhibiting mercury, must therefore be considered as two of the greatest benefits that can be conferred on mankind.—Of all the various modes of exhibiting mercury, that which you recommend seems to me the most safe, and I have no doubt but it will likewise be found the most efficacious. A false opinion has long prevailed, that every medicine ought to be taken into stomach.

This

This has done much mischief. Many people have such an aversion to medicine of all kinds, that they will suffer any thing rather than swallow a single dose. Others have such a debility of the viscera, that though they can swallow mercury, yet it tears their stomach and bowels to pieces. Of this every medical practitioner must have seen many instances. There are few persons who have been so unfortunate as to take large quantities of this mineral in the usual way, who do not exhibit melancholy proofs of its baneful effects on the stomach and bowels. By your mode of administering mercury, these effects are obviated, while it is much more cleanly and agreeable than the common method of applying it to the skin.—With regard to your remarks on the modern practice of inoculation, I have only to observe, that they entirely coincide with my own sentiments on that subject. Inoculation can never prove a blessing to mankind, till the practice becomes general, and that will never be the case while it remains in the hands of the faculty. Every attempt, therefore, to render this operation easy and familiar, and to shew that its success does not depend upon medical skill and address, either in preparing the patient, or treating the disease, must be highly laudable. Indeed your whole pamphlet breathes a spirit of liberality and candour, which will not fail to place your name high in the list of those generous benefactors of society, who have assisted in extending the advantages of this important discovery to mankind.—Wishing you all success in your endeavours to lessen the miseries of human life, I remain your's, sincerely,
Norfolk-street, Strand **12 MR 58** W. BUCHAN.

AN APPROVED METHOD OF INOCULATION.

"A Lancet, moistened with the Matter of the Small-Pox, is gently introduced in an oblique Manner, between the Scarf and the true Skin, and the Finger of the Operator is applied on the Point to wipe off the Infection from the Lancet when it is withdrawn. A little Blood will sometimes appear; but I neither draw Blood with Design, nor think it necessary to wipe it off before the Matter is introduced. Neither Plaster, Bandage, nor Covering, are, in any Respect, necessary. This Method of producing the Disease has never failed me."

Vide **BARON DIMSDALE's** Treatise.

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I remain, Dear Sir, your's, sincerely,
Norfolk-street, Strand. W. BUCHAN.

A Letter from WM. TURNBULL, M. D. to Mr. Clare,

Dear Sir,

ON reading your late publication, with regard to the application of mercury, to the inside of the mouth, &c. with more advantage than from any other mode offered to the public, I was so pleased with the simplicity and neatness of the method, that I was determined to adopt it the first opportunity. I shall not trouble you with a narrative of particular cases,

cases, of which you have had many from different correspondents; I can, however, from several instances assure you, that I have seen more speedy and salutary effects from your method, than from any other yet held forth to the public. With regard to the doctrine of absorption, I do not suppose any persons acquainted with the animal system, and the history of physic, will refuse their assent to it. And this being taken for granted, wherever the friction can be moderately used *to the thin circular inner surfaces* of the body, every person conversant with the subject, must rationally conclude, that *there* it will prove most effectual. Much might be said in support of your hypothesis, but after what those ingenious Gentlemen, Doctor Hunter and Mr. Cruikshank, have advanced in support of the doctrine of absorption, and in commendation of your discovery, it would be superfluous to urge any thing more upon the subject.—Give me leave only to say, that I do not think there has been a greater discovery since SYDENHAM's time, except the modern treatment of inflammatory fevers, especially that of inoculation, in which improvement the candid Baron Dimsdale claims the greatest merit from the publick. No person of liberal sentiments will condemn your's, or any other new method, until they make a fair trial thereof, especially as you have advanced nothing inconsistent with, or contradictory to the present practice, in the treatment of the Venereal Disease.—The exposing persons to the cold air, and indulging them in the free use of cold water for their drink, even in the natural small-pox, had far greater difficulties to struggle with, than the practice you have recommended.

If any thing that I have said in consequence of your liberal and ingenious publication can afford you any satisfaction, I will occasionally communicate to you in future whatever may fall under my observation.

And am, DEAR SIR,

Well close-Square,
Jan. 25, 1783.

Your obedient Servant,
WM. TURNBULL, M. D.

A LETTER from Dr. KIRKLAND, to Mr. CLARE.

" DEAR SIR,

Abby, Aug. 18, 83.

I Am greatly obliged to you for your Pamphlets, and for the honorable mention you have made of me. I have read them with pleasure, and approve of the practice of using injections in the cure of the gonorrhœa. It is the ready way to work, nor does it deny the assistance of internal medicines, when virulence or neglect has made them necessary. I sincerely wish you success in decrying the use of *large quantities* of mercury in the cure of Siphylis; it is perfectly unnecessary, always injurious, and I do believe it has killed multitudes, and destroyed the health of millions. I hope to see the horrid practice of daubing with loads of extinguished quicksilver, laid aside, and I mean to assist in expunging a method founded in erroneous principles. I am glad also to see you turn your thoughts to Medical Surgery; and if Surgeons in general would look the same way, they would be doing essential service to mankind. Wishing success in your inquiries,

I am, Dear SIR,

Your most humble Servant,

THO. KIRRLAND."

TO DR. KIRKLAND.

DEAR SIR,

PERMIT me to return you thanks for the honour of a letter, in which you have been pleased to express your approbation of my method of curing the Gonorrhœa and Siphylis, and also of my attention to Medical Surgery. Nothing can give me more pleasure than your additional testimony, which must have great influence with the public, and the faculty, by whom your knowledge and judgement is held in the highest estimation. It is incumbent on me to announce to the world, that your Sentiments, Sir, coincide with those
of

of my other Medical Friends, who have come forth and declared their entire disapprobation of the common, disagreeable, and injurious modes of administering mercury, and whose voluntary and candid attestations, where health and life are concerned, can never be too much valued and admired. I shall take the earliest opportunity of conveying you the third edition of my book, with an anatomical engraving of the Villi of the Lips, which probably you may not have seen, and which I beg you to accept..

I agree with you in thinking, that " if Surgeons in general would turn their thoughts towards Medical Surgery, they would do essential service to mankind."

The knife (however great its merit) seems to have arrived at its *ne plus ultra* of perfection ; and the most sanguine cannot expect more from it than has been already experienced ; but Medical Surgery may be still in its infancy, and there are, in all human probability, some remedies not known ; and others, though known, yet never happily applied, which may hereafter furnish a cure for cancers, and other disorders at present ranged in the class of incurables. Our attention and diligence should therefore be particularly engaged in this most rational pursuit, from which we have nothing to fear, and every thing to hope.

I am, Dear S I R,

Your most humble Servant,

P. CLARE.

P. S. It may be worth observation, that great advantage attends the use of saline preparations of mercury, which dissolving, are more quickly absorbed than other powders not soluble, and rising against their own weight. The most acrid of this class, when properly mixed, may be safely applied to the upper surface of the tongue, observing, for some time, not to swallow the saliva.

To Mr. CLARE, Surgeon.

S I R,

SOON after the Publication I saw your two little Volumes. Your Hypothesis I immediately embraced, being irresistibly struck with its Rationality. I directly and clearly conceived how much easier Calomel and Saliva would be absorbed than the viscid Substance of an Ointment; and how much more eligible such a Mode must be, under the Ideas of Ease and Elegance. I moreover admired your Manner of applying it—How much more readily the internal Surface of the Mouth or the Lips must absorb than any external part of the Body, where Substances capable of being absorbed have both *Cuticula* and *Cutis* to pass! Besides, I was convinced of it, from the ready Entrance this *Virus* meets with, and from the speedy and effectual communication of its direful Effects, as in the Case of an Ulcer in the Lip coming into Contact with that of a sound Person. These, Sir, were my Reflections, on reading your Book; and I firmly hold them to this Hour. I cannot here omit mentioning your Sentiments touching my worthy Teacher, Dr. Hugh Smith's Injections; first, of Bland Oil, afterwards of a Solution of White Vitriol. You are the only Surgeon that I ever found would even bear the Mention of such an Injection; but it was because they never gave themselves Time to consider the Principles on which it was founded. But you have candidly considered, and handsomely defended them. I can only add my warmest Wishes, that your truly laudable and disinterested Pursuits may be succeeded by growing and lasting Fame and Opulence; who am, though not so happy as to know you, Sir,

Your obliged humble Servant,

S. SAUNDERS.

Boreham-wood,
near Barnet, Herts.

To Mr. CLARE, Surgeon.

S I R,

A Lieutenant in the Navy, in the Month of November, 1781, contracted SYPHILIS, for which he had been bled freely, taken rough Mercurial purges, and been ordered to abstain from all strong liquors. From this severe treatment, and the disorder together, he was greatly emaciated; in which state he applied to me. By the use of your method, and a free regimen, he soon recovered his health. When I proposed his rubbing a little powder on his lips, he seemed much prejudiced against it, saying, "What can that do?" But on my explaining the nature and operation of the process, he consented to make a trial of it; and afterwards thanked me for my great attention and care of him.

I have been assured by several persons, that they have repeatedly cured themselves by the directions in your book; which will, in all probability, cause your method to be brought into general use; a circumstance devoutly to be wished for the good of mankind.

To sum up the merits of your practice in few words, I am convinced that many lives, destroyed by consumptions, arising from violent courses of Mercury, might have been preserved by the adoption of your mild and salutary process.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

Wm. TURNBULL,

Surgeon of his Majesty's Royal Navy.

"Hoc ore *absorpta* fugiunt pallorque fitusque,
"Membraque luxuriant."

OVID METAM.

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